

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is being filed under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b) and is a continuation of U.S. Serial No. 10/353,116 filed January 27, 2003, which is a continuation of U.S. Serial No. 09/882,989 filed April 24, 2001, which is a continuation application of U.S. Serial No. 09/412,113 filed October 5, 1999 now U.S. Patent No. 6,264,682, which is a continuation of U.S. Serial No. 08/910,857 filed August 13, 1997 now U.S. Patent No. 6,165,195. Applicants claim priority to all of the applications in the chain.

Claims 1-32 have been canceled. New claims 33-44 have been added and are pending in the application. No new matter has been entered. Support for the claims can be found in the specification and drawings. More specifically, but without limitation, support for claims 33-44 can be found at pages 29-33 and in FIGS. 12-13.


The Examiner should be aware that the specification for the grandparent to the present application, namely U.S. Serial No. 09/882,989 filed June 14, 2001, has handwritten notations throughout which include corrections to several reference numbers in the drawings, and at page 42, a clarification with respect to guide wire 96. More specifically, the handwritten notation on page 42, lines 24-25, refer to the guide wire 96 being "carried in lumen 95 as the catheter is" advanced along guide wire 99. It is believed that the handwritten notations to the reference numbers and reference to guide wire 96 are for clarification purposes and do not constitute new matter. Unfortunately, the handwritten notations were not formal amendments made in the originally-filed

application U.S. Serial No. 08/910,857 filed August 13, 1997. The handwritten notations made their first appearance when U.S. Serial No. 09/412,113 was filed October 5, 1999. The handwritten notations and the changes to the reference numbers have been submitted in this Preliminary Amendment as changes to the specification. It is verily believed that no new matter is being presented.

It is respectfully requested that the application be examined at the earliest possible convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

FULWIDER PATTON LEE & UTECHT, LLP

By: 
John S. Nagy
Registration No. 30,664

JSN:jeb

Howard Hughes Center
6060 Center Drive, Tenth Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90045
Telephone: (310) 824-5555
Facsimile: (310) 824-9696
Customer No. 24201
17256.1